

require Douglas County, Nebraska to elect the five county commissioners in Douglas County, Nebraska by district. That would mean very simply that Douglas County would be drawn into five geographic sectors, that persons who wish to stand for office of a county commissioner in Douglas County would then be nominated from one of the five districts and the voters of that particular district would in the primary election determine who is the top vote getter in the Republican Party from that district and who is the top vote getter from the Democratic Party in that district, and then in the general election those two top vote getters would run one against the other. This bill does not become effective, that is it would....the first election this bill would affect is the 1986 election. It does not affect the next election, the '84 election. It affects the 1986 election. This bill with the amendment...this bill with the amendment also permits the county board itself to draw the lines for the five districts. The Legislature traditionally does set... does determine whether or not county commissioners shall be elected by district or at large. We have provided a method whereby people may petition for a change in how elections are affected. At this time there are 75 county boards out of 93 in Nebraska where nomination and election is done by district. Of the remaining county boards, there are 17 that are elected at large, and these tend to be very small counties in terms of population. There is one county board where supervisors or commissioners are nominated by district and elected at large. Now in Douglas County, Nebraska we have had a long standing question as to how we should elect local officials. For a long period of time we elected our city council people at large. However, the Legislature changed that system of government so that in Omaha we elect our local city council people by district. For a long period of time we elected our school board members at large. However, again the Legislature changed that policy so in Omaha we now elect our Omaha school board members by district. The Douglas County Board of Commissioners remains the other major unit of government operating in Douglas County where elections are still conducted at large rather than by district. Incidentally, this has not always been the case in Douglas County. In Douglas County from 1879 to 1891 we nominated by district and elected at large. From 1891 to 1903 we had a pure district election. From 1903 to 1917 we nominated by district and elected at large. For two years, 1917 and 1918 we had pure district elections. From 1919 to 1969 we nominated by district and we had at large elections, and from 1969 through the present we have at large elections. But the basic philosophy that has been operating in Omaha in the last decade primarily has been that we tend to have better government, more responsive to the people and more likely to